

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1921

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1908

STADIS //

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 27607

1. THANKS FOR YOUR THOUGHTS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY DO, HOWEVER, RAISE AT LEAST TWO QUESTIONS ON WHICH YOUR PROPOSALS SEEM INADEQUATE.

2. FIRST, THE AMOUNT OF TIME BLOCKED OUT IS SKIMPY. I REALIZE LIMITATIONS ON SECRETARY'S TIME, BUT BELIEVE FILIPINOS WOULD CONSIDER ONE-HOUR FORMAL MEETING AN INSULTING SUGGESTION. SINCE PRIMARY NATURE OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE TAKE THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY, AND SINCE OUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT IN THAT DEMONSTRATION WILL BE THE SECRETARY'S TIME (AND ELOQUENCE), I FEEL WE MUST ALLOCATE A MORE SIGNIFICANT PERIOD FOR THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS. MOREOVER, ROMULO IS NOT NOTED FOR HIS BREVITY AND WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE ABOUT ONE HOUR TO MAKE HIS OWN PRESENTATION. THEREFORE, I PROPOSE THAT THE MEETING BE SCHEDULED TO OPEN (WITH TELEVISION AND PRESS IN THE TAPESTRIED ROOM ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR) AT TEN RPT TEN IN THE MORNING, TO BE FOLLOWED BY WORKING LUNCH. (SENSE OF THE THEATER WILL BE AS IMPORTANT AS SUBSTANCE AT THIS STAGE.)

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3. SECONDLY, I DO NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND RATIONALE FOR TACTICS RE TABLING OF U.S. DRAFT. IF DRAFT IS TABLED IN WASHINGTON BY SECRETARY, IT WILL NOT ONLY HAVE MORE AUTHORITY BUT IT WILL PROVIDE GRACIOUS EXCUSE FOR BREAKING UP DISCUSSIONS AFTER ONE MEETING AND ADJOURNING THEM TO MANILA LOCALE. THE PHILIPPINE TEAM CAN SAY IT WILL REQUIRE TIME TO STUDY OUR PROPOSALS AND THEREFORE CAN EXPLAIN THEIR SUDDEN RETURN HOME AFTER ONLY ONE SESSION. IF THEY HAVE NO RPT NO SUCH PATENT REASON, WE CAN BE SURE MANILA (AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD) WILL BE FLOODED WITH RUMORS THAT TALKS BROKE UP IN FAILURE.

4. IF, AS YOU PROPOSE, DRAFT WERE TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY TABLED IN MANILA AFTER RPT AFTER WASHINGTON MEETING BROKE UP IN SPATE OF RUMORS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE HAD BEEN DRAGOONED INTO MAKING THIS CONCESSION AS RESULT OF PHILIPPINE PRESSURES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO GRASP THE IDEA THAT OUR WHOLE TACTIC (AND THE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY PRESIDENT FORD) IS TO APPEAR FORTHCOMING, TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, AND INCIDENTALLY, TO SEIZE THE CONTROLLING LEAD IN THIS EXERCISE. AGAIN, I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT IN DEALING WITH FILIPINOS, THE FORM IS OFTEN MORE PERTINENT THAN THE SUBSTANCE.

5. MERELY BECAUSE WE TABLE A DRAFT, THE SECRETARY NEED NOT RPT NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVE HIMSELF IN ITS DETAILS. I WOULD EXPECT AND PREFER THAT HIS REMARKS BE IN GENERALITIES, LINKING PHILIPPINES TO LARGER GLOBAL PICTURE, EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR PROBLEMS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, ASSURING ROMULO OF OUR FIDELITY, ETC. DRAFT COULD BE TABLED AT THE END OF THE SESSION, AFTER ROMULO'S STATEMENT OF GENERALITIES IN REPLY.

6. AT SAME TIME, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE DRAFT SHOULD BE DROPPED ON TABLE AS A SURPRISE. WE SHOULD ALERT ROMULO IN ADVANCE THAT WE WILL TABLE DRAFT. THIS WAY, WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT HIS REMARKS WILL BE GENERALIZED, WHILE HE KEEPS ALL HIS OPTIONS OPEN.

7. PLEASE URGENTLY RECONSIDER THESE TWO POINTS AND GIVE ME  
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CONSTRUCTIVE REPLY SOONEST. IN MEANTIME, I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING WORKING GROUP COMMENTS ON OUR DRAFT AS WELL AS TO MID-MARCH VISIT BY BOB MILLER.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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